

Subject 1854 Treaty Area
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Summary

This bill would provide an annual appropriation of \$15,000,000 for purposes of the 1854 Treaty Area agreement.

The 1854 Treaty was a treaty between the Chippewa of Lake Superior and the United States where the Chippewa ceded their land in northeastern Minnesota. In 1985, the Grand Portage Band sued the state asserting that the 1854 Treaty gives the Band the right to hunt and fish in the ceded territory without state regulation. The Fond du Lac and Bois Forte Bands later joined the lawsuit. In 1988, the state and the three Bands entered into an agreement to settle the dispute (Fond du Lac Band withdrew from the agreement the following year). As part of the agreement, the state is required to make annual payments to the Bands based upon a formula specified in the agreement.